

To: Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC

From: Chris Simcox
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Almost four years after the terrible terrorist attacks upon our country on September 11, 2001, citizens of the United States remain concerned about our national security, specifically our outrageously porous international border with Mexico. Those who live along the border-state region with Mexico have great concern for their personal safety as well as concern over the lack of border security.

Despite repeated warnings from citizens, local law enforcement and various public officials, our border remains intolerably porous and presents not only a threat to public safety but also a clear and present danger to the security of our nation. Millions of dollars have been thrown at the problem and new technology has been promised – some delivered, some conspicuously absent. Citizens who live with daily incursions of illegal aliens through our property and into the sparsely populated back country along the border realize one thing: the Department of Homeland security cannot effectively stop migrant workers, mothers carrying small children, vicious drug smugglers, known criminals and human smugglers from breaching our border security – we do not feel confident that our government is able to stop terrorist elements from entering our country with the intent of inflicting harm upon our citizens.

After years of writing letters, sending faxes, sending e-mails and making countless phone calls to elected officials pleading, begging and demanding redress of our grievances, frustration led us to but one conclusion – we must act and address the problem with a citizen movement.

In November of 2002, I, Chris Simcox, began assembling a group of citizens to undertake the responsibility in assisting what we realized was a Border Patrol woefully undermanned and, as it stood, unable to provide for the safety of the citizens of our local community, Cochise County, Arizona.

We began with a small group of about 40 concerned citizens who knew the only way to bring attention to the problem was with bold statement combined with effective active participation, and so a neighborhood border watch movement was born. Working with retired and active law enforcement and military personnel, we formed Civil Homeland Defense – a group of citizens who worked within the law to assist law enforcement with battling an overwhelming flood of incursions by foreign nationals from around the world who daily breached our border security.

Since the formation of the CHD, over 400 citizens from Arizona and other states have participated in spotting, locating and reporting people who entered our country illegally. Our citizen effort has led to the capture, by the proper authorities, of 4,609 individuals from 26 different countries including China, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Poland and, yes, even people from Russia. During the same period, volunteers of our modest citizen patrol group have provided life saving water and medical attention to save the lives of 158 men, women and children.

From the beginning, our volunteers have worked seamlessly with field agents of the U.S. Border Patrol; agents in the field have always acted with courtesy and have shown appreciation for our assistance with a problem they are not able to control, given the support they receive from the Congress.

Supervisors and sector chiefs of the U.S. Border Patrol have been a different story. Despite a public service campaign asking for the help of citizens, they contradict themselves when it comes to the point of actually going beyond picking up a phone to report groups of people who have obviously entered our country illegally.

Video provided by Civil Homeland Defense and the Minuteman Project illustrates just how porous our border is. Each of the nearly 5,000 identified illegal entrants is presented in videotape evidence supplied to this committee. Not only have local citizens documented persons from other countries entering Cochise County, but we also present evidence of incursions by Mexican military personnel—sometimes found up to a mile inside the borders of the United States.

During the month of April 2005, 876 citizens volunteered at least one 8-hour shift manning static observation posts along a 26-mile sector of Cochise County. The areas were chosen because of their repeated use by human smugglers to bring thousands of foreign nationals into our country illegally. We identified the most heavily traveled routes used by smugglers and we formed static observation posts spaced approximately one-quarter of mile apart, to create an obvious presence that resulted in deterring anyone from entering the country in those areas.

Sixty-three volunteers spent the entire 30-day period working multiple shifts to maintain a presence. On our “Naco line”, an area east of Bisbee, Arizona, stretching towards Douglas, Arizona, an area notorious for up to 500 illegal crossings a day, we saw a drop to nearly zero during the 30-day mission.

On our “Huachuca line” an area 5-miles from the Mexican border at the base of the Huachuca Mountains, we witnessed a dramatic decrease in groups of illegal aliens descending through canyons leading through neighborhoods south of Sierra Vista and the unincorporated area known as Hereford, Arizona.

During the month-long mission, volunteers of the Minuteman Project assisted Border Patrol with locating and apprehending 349 people entering the United States illegally. Also during the month of April, calls to Border Patrol from local residents led to more than 1,500 apprehensions that would not have been made had citizens not taken the initiative to report suspicious illegal activity in their neighborhoods. Border Patrol officials reported that apprehensions of illegal aliens in the Naco sector dropped 65% from the previous year during the same time period.

During the month-long project, volunteer encounters with Border patrol field agents were nothing less than amicable and friendly. Agents were overtly appreciative and supportive of the assistance provided by citizens. Agents thanked the volunteers for bringing national attention to their plight and their frustration with being ignored by supervisors as well as the lack of support both in equipment and personnel by Congress, and expressed anger at comments made by the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

When volunteers of the Minuteman Project made calls for assistance to the Border Patrol they responded quickly and shared words of appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers. At no time did any field agent state concerns about citizens impeding their duties or getting in the way. At no time did field agents express frustration regarding the setting off of sensors.

The Minuteman Project was a phenomenal success due to the law abiding and conscientious efforts of many retired law enforcement and military veterans who gave their time and offered expertise in organizing, supervising and ensuring volunteers remained explicitly aware of the tactics outlined in our carefully written Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.Ps.). That S.O.P. format is included in the packet of information offered as testimony to this committee. The S.O.Ps. provided a framework that assured citizens' exemplary behavior and code of conduct during the month-long protest.

Our message is clear: Congress must move immediately to assign military reserves to the border to assist with controlling our border, or we the people will continue to organize, train and act to assist doing the job -- right alongside our courageous Border Patrol agents.

Our effort now continues in Cochise County, and will expand towards a much larger citizen volunteer group preparing for a month-long effort in all four southern border states in October 2005.

Each of our volunteers must submit to a criminal background check; they must be interviewed by recruitment personnel and must understand their participation hinges on their strict adherence to a policy of law-abiding engagement with those who willfully break the laws of our nation by entering our country illegally. We intend to share all intelligence information with the proper authorities and will work in ways that do not impede their operations.

We know our border is rife with hardened criminals who have no respect for human life. Volunteers are prepared for the consequences of violent encounters with criminals; we are prepared to defend our lives and our country with reasonable counter-force if necessary. Volunteers will abide strictly by the laws of the states in which they operate such patrols. Volunteers fully understand the weight of responsibility heaped upon their shoulders by the lack of attention to this problem by Congress and the President of the United States. It is your duty to immediately respond to our grievances and quickly act to supply professional personnel who would bring an end to the necessity for ordinary citizens to band together to provide the services that are clearly delegated by the Constitution to the Federal Government.

Our plan is continue recruiting retired law enforcement personnel and we are actively recruiting military veterans, from WWII vets to veterans returning from the most recent war in Iraq – they are ready and willing to serve their country again by assisting with border security.

The success has led to an outpouring of support and volunteerism, skyrocketing to the point where organizers have been contacted by over 15,000 people wishing to volunteer for future operations.

We consider this a mandate from the citizens of the United States who are no longer demanding better border security - they are now willing to participate in securing the borders themselves. Our intentions are to follow the will of the people. The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps. is now undertaking the task of recruiting, training and deploying thousands of U.S. citizens to the four southern border states with Mexico. This effort will also continue to expand to northern border states with Canada.

We now consider the movement to be a revival of the Civil Defense movement of the World War II era. While our troops are fighting on foreign soil, while our Department of Homeland Security applies its resources and efforts to provide for our national security in other areas, we

the people will take up the slack by developing civil defense volunteers to support the U.S. Border Patrol.

We consider this a no-compromise situation. Until the time that Congress appropriates sufficient funding and develops personnel levels to the numbers needed to effectively secure our borders, we the people will roll up our sleeves in the time-honored tradition and creed of a “can-do” society, and we will assist until honorably relieved from duty by the government of the United States.

Only one scenario is possible in convincing citizens to return to our normal everyday lives: deployment of U.S. military reserves and or assigning National Guard personnel, to augment a woefully understaffed Border patrol; only this will convince ordinary citizens to retire from this endeavor.

The tactics and logistics now seem obvious. Static observation posts are the only effective method of deterrence short of building a wall along the almost 2,000 mile border with Mexico. Elevated observation outposts spaced approximately one-half-mile apart and staffed with teams of two to four Border Patrol or military personnel are needed to deter drug and Human smugglers from entering the country. It is all about creating an obvious presence that deters individuals from entering our country illegally.

We know that *posse comitatus* cannot be used as an excuse for preventing the deployment of military reserves to assist with border security. President Theodore Roosevelt set aside the 60 foot right of way known as the international border road in 1907 explicitly for the purpose of using the military to protect the United States. We of course are not concerned about the military being used against citizens of the United States; we are asking for the military to augment Border Patrol to improve national security and to prevent people and illicit goods from entering the U.S. illegally.

U.S. military reserves and National Guard personnel could use the border for training exercises, creating a presence to deter illegal activity. Border Patrol could work as a secondary layer of protection and would pursue and apprehend people who breach the first line of defense.

For the citizens who have worked the border, we know first hand this tactic works. While we watched the border during April, every illegal alien who chanced crossing the border in our area of operations was quickly apprehended by the proper authorities. Using advanced technology, ground sensors, cameras and UAVs are important in providing security; however, nothing is as effective as a physical presence of personnel on the border.

I thank you for the opportunity to share this information with the members of this Congressional committee. I hope it helps to provide a realistic and immediate solution to effectively secure our borders to protect the citizens of this great republic.

Chris Simcox

Standard Operating Procedure for Minuteman Project

By Chris Simcox

Preface

You are reading this because you believe that you can actively participate in one of the most important, socially responsible, and peaceful movements for justice since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. You are considering joining in this activist protest because you are done talking. You have debated, you have begged, you have pleaded with your government officials -- public servants whom you trusted to stand by the oath they took when sworn into office to protect the United States from invasion by enemies foreign and domestic. The human flood breaching our Homeland Defense is not necessarily the enemy per se; drug dealers, criminals and potential terrorists are, and they should be the source of any ire you may be experiencing.

You are considering joining the Minuteman Project not because of bias towards people from another country, but rather because you feel your government owes the citizens of the United States protection from people who wish to take advantage of a free society. We demand that President Bush, members of Congress and the Senate maintain an orderly queue of entry into our country. We are three years post September 11, 2001, and still our government is more concerned with securing the borders of foreign lands than securing the borders of the United States. Enough is enough. I apologize for applying such a bromide, but when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I come from a generation that has lost the ideal that we are a "can-do nation." I cannot accept the weak excuse from our government that the problem is unsolvable. That mindset is un-American. We can and we will make a difference. We, as citizens, are the government, are acting within the social contract of our right to freedom, and we will apply our efforts within the limits of the laws we have created. Regardless of whether we agree with the constraints on our limited ability to stem the flow of crime across our borders, we will display the highest level of restraint, thus proving we are responsible citizens and that our character is consistent with our ability to stay within the boundaries of the law.

Are you willing to sacrifice a few days, a week, a month to help do the job that the government should be doing? If you choose to make the sacrifice and become the active majority rather than the silent majority, you will have accomplished more in one month than the sum total of all your years of complaining and demanding action from your public servants who seem more interested in working for people from other countries than they are in working for us.

Our effort will be tangibly effective in supporting the defenders of our border, the patriotic men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol. You will offer

your assistance and become force-multipliers to assist their monumental task of turning back the tidal wave of people entering our country illegally.

You must be willing to accept the following plan, or you, as a segment of a larger group, are doomed to be remembered in history as representative not of the strongest character, but rather as the weakest link in our maligned and misunderstood group of truly patriotic nationalists. You must understand in the deepest ways the importance of our challenge.

You are here because you are willing to challenge our government to fulfill their constitutionally mandated responsibility, not because you want to fight them, but because you want to challenge them by fulfilling their obligation in their absence. You are willing to become force-multipliers in the absence of Congressional and Presidential will.

Composing letters, e-mails and faxes did not make an impression on our public servants. Now we will assert ourselves as citizen representatives of the government. We are citizens who set the example, of the people for the people and by the people.

We will succeed. *If we are to send the message loud and clear to President Bush and Congress, it is imperative that we stay within the law. If one single individual steps over the line for their personal gratification, we are all stained with that irresponsible behavior,* and labeled forever as a fringe element that embarrasses all who are counting on us to make this historic statement.

We must prevail, we will prevail. We shall overcome the effort by many to identify this movement as irresponsible; we will be victorious in proving the skeptics wrong. Our efforts will change the course of history and ignite others to stand with courage to make a change. Many are waiting for the outcome and will themselves be motivated with a new sense of activism; we will be leaders who will make a difference, role models who will influence future generations. Are you with us, Americans? If yes, then "let's roll"!

The Law

You must hold these truths to be self evident. There are restrictions and guidelines that must be followed to an absolute.

You will abide by the laws of Arizona. If you choose to arm yourself, you will do so for the purpose of self defense only; you will never have to take action to defend yourself, for you will abide by the rules of no contact and no engagement. (By the way, no weapons are allowed in the Coronado National Park, but we will not be working there, so no need to go any further).

No weapons in the San Pedro Riparian area near the San Pedro River. There are plenty of hilltops on which to perch, spot and report. Most of the time the illegal aliens will not even know you are there, and you always have the advantage of the high ground.

If challenged, you will physically remove yourself from the situation. At this point 'tis better to retreat and preserve the ability to return and fight another day. The idea is for your sidearm to remain holstered for the duration of your visit. There will be absolutely no need to ever remove your firearm from its holster - not for cleaning, not for show-and-tell, not for any reason. By never removing the firearm from the holster, never keeping it chambered and always keeping the safety on and keeping your hands away from it, there can be no accidents. End of discussion. Remove the firearm from the holster for any reason, and your group members will likely send you on your way back home.

Stun guns, mace, pepper spray are alternatives for personal safety, but remember you have agreed to abide by a no contact, no engagement policy, so your safety will never be an issue. Right?

Absolutely you will not bring handcuffs or other devices used for the physical restraint of human beings. You will not be coming to Arizona to engage in philosophical discussions. You will not be coming to Arizona to challenge anyone, any idea, any person -- your challenge is with yourself. Your challenge will be, simplistically put, to behave yourself.

The mission is clear - Restraint, Responsibility and Character are the qualities that will guarantee success.

A word of advice: you will be held responsible, not just by law enforcement, but by the rules of our society, of mankind. You can be guaranteed that the first response towards any irrational or illegal behavior will come from within your group of compatriots. We will hold each other accountable. Any volunteer who even hints at illegal activity will be quickly ostracized from the mission and will be reported to law enforcement. You will be removed from the mission and will have forever shamed yourself -- you will not be allowed to shame the mission. Personal responsibility, accountability and temperament are the keys to success.

There has been much hand wringing, not just by the media but also from within the rank and file of potential volunteers.

Think about it this way. With the ideals explained in the previous paragraphs, anyone with the intention of stepping over the line will now realize they will not get away with it. Any possible racist, unstable or misguided element will now realize they will not succeed.

Why would anyone who does not agree with the tenets set forth even want to join the effort, knowing they will quickly be expelled from the activity? Those who disagree with the philosophy of this mission have now been dissuaded with caveats replete with everything they most likely despise. Those who don't agree are now making plans to stay home and cast doubt upon our efforts. Let them; for we are all better off without their participation, giving us yet another sense of gratification and desire for success.

The volunteers who have led the way are the good citizens who have joined the efforts of Civil Homeland Defense and who have succeeded in assisting the

Border Patrol with locating over 5,000 people entering our country illegally. The volunteers have never made a mistake leading to harm or arrest by law enforcement. We know how to get the job done, so please defer to our experience as your ultimate guide. Our reputation speaks for itself. Facing tremendous opposition and skepticism, we have prevailed. Yet we now risk everything we have worked to achieve during the past two years. If one individual puts their selfish desires before the mandate of the mission, we all lose. We cannot allow such petty individual desires to ruin years and thousands of hours of effort to be wasted at the hands of one self-serving fool.

Volunteers will maintain a strict code of ethics and behavior: you will adhere to a no contact policy. Spot, report and avoid any contact with people entering our country illegally. No exceptions.

Why risk going to jail and ruining the mission by engaging a group of illegals? The time for that is not yet upon us. Remember, this is activism, yet it is symbolic at best. We know millions of illegals are here, thousands continue to come and nothing short of military intervention will cease the flow.

It's no big deal to let a group get away, for every group you locate; there are ten more who are getting through. Face it: there is not much else we can do. The idea is to become force-multipliers for Border Patrol. Our effort will be a shock and awe to the President and to Congressional leaders. If you are coming here because you harbor ill feelings toward the illegals, if you feel uncontrolled anger towards the government of Mexico or people who are fleeing economic disenfranchisement, you are advised to stay home.

Our efforts are not meant to stop illegals, our efforts are designed to send our elected officials a stiff reminder - they work for us first. Ignore us and we will continue to grow in numbers. We succeed this time and we will have thousands more who will follow our lead in future more interactive missions.

Experienced volunteers of Civil Homeland Defense (CHD) will be mentoring groups of novice border watchers who are here for the first time. CHD volunteers will consult, guide and share experience with new volunteers. CHD volunteers will continue to work in every way possible that will support the mission. Future efforts will likely involve the tracking and containment of groups of people who have entered our country illegally. For *this* mission, you will resist in every way confronting or attempting to make contact with illegals.

Every group of volunteers should have at least one video camera available and a person whose duty it is to operate it. The video camera is your insurance policy. Record any up-close encounter with the video camera. It is as much a tool for self defense as is your sidearm. If for any reason a group of people entering our country enters your area, you will politely wave, stand aside and watch them proceed on their journey. You may feel an overwhelming sense of frustration, but you will not act irrationally because of the feeling. Self restraint, discipline and personal responsibility must be uppermost in your mind. Be assured that every group you spot will be apprehended by the proper authorities. 99% of every group

spotted by volunteers of CHD have been apprehended somewhere down the road. Your satisfaction comes from knowing you have located, reported and alerted the Border Patrol of illegal activity. The group will be caught (by Border Patrol...the proper? Authorities) and sent back across the border.

If a group or individual approaches you in need of assistance, provide it. Every group should have a first aid kit and extra water to offer a human being life-saving aid. Sometimes you may have a person come to you for protection or aid, offer them what they need, videotape everything. Assure them you mean them no harm and tell them you have contacted "La Migra" and that help is on the way. They are usually quite grateful for the assistance.

Patrols conducted during daylight are simple. Take shifts spotting with binoculars, spotting scopes etc. If you see a group, call Border Patrol. For Naco Border Patrol, the district number is 520-432-5121. Douglas Border Patrol dispatch number is 520-805-6900.

Identify yourself as a MMP volunteer. Give them your location. Report the group you have spotted in specifics. Example.

"Hello, good morning, this is Chris Simcox with the Minuteman Project. I am at mile marker 5.5 overlooking the border road. I have spotted a hard count of 15 people who just entered the country illegally. They have crossed the fence and are headed up a trail towards the interior. They look as if they are taking the trail toward the mountains. There are 13 men and 2 women. We will continue to watch them so we can give more specifics to the agent who arrives to track them. How long do you think it will take an agent to arrive? If you need to call me back my cell phone number is... Thanks for your help."

When the agent on the ground arrives, give them the information and direct them towards the group. Other than that, stay out of their way and let them do their job.

If the agent apprehends the group and walks them back out past your location, stay out of the way. Video the group from a distance. You can protect the agent by not video taping his or her face. Do not approach the group even after they are in custody. If the agent asks for your help, provide it with caution. When interfacing with Border Patrol, remember, they are the good guys. Tell them you appreciate their duty to country. If they come back empty handed, tell them you hope they can catch the group farther up the trail. Never have a bad word for these guys and gals; remember they are attempting to do a job with one hand tied behind their backs. You will have to be satisfied that you can provide assistance with both hands tied behind your back. Spot and report; you are being affective just doing that.

Every team will consist of 4 to 8 volunteers. You will use FRS radios and cell phones. Hopefully each group will be provided a radio that will reach the command center. If not, use your cell phone to call Command and report how many people you counted, the time, the location and if Border Patrol responded. A log will be kept to prove our effectiveness and the effectiveness of Border

Patrol. A compiled report will be shared with the media at the completion of the project.

Keep your radio transmissions to a minimum, no joking around or extraneous off-task comments. Stay calm, focused, stoic and on-task.

Spread out and maximize your personnel; take shifts spotting to relieve stress. Use the minimum number of radios possible to conserve batteries. Never stray out of radio contact with your group. Rotate the use of cell phones to conserve batteries.

Your vehicles will be your command center. Bring DC connectors to recharge batteries. Carry back-up batteries for radios.

Plan on no less than 8-hour shifts. We will organize relief shifts once we have a hard count of volunteers who have shown they will walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

Carry personal contact information in case of emergency. Ensure every person in your group is aware of any physical or health issues of individuals in your team. Plan for your comfort. Bring a camping chair or folding lawn chair - you will be sitting for hours on end.

Dress warmly, and layer for extremes from cold to hot. Bring plenty of water -2 gallons per person per day. Bring snacks and meals that can be prepared without fire. Hopefully everyone can stand to rough it for at least 8 hours a day: hats, sunscreen, medications for personal issues, tissues, toilet paper, a shovel for burying your waste. Respect the environment, clean up after the group. Make every effort to leave the land just as you found it or in better shape than you found it.

Never drive off-road. Stick to the roads and two-track paths. Park as close to the side of the road as possible, always leaving room for Border Patrol or emergency vehicle access.

Night Missions

Not everyone will be cut out for night missions. We will be looking for those few hardy volunteers who can stand the 12 hours of dusk to twilight. Auditory awareness is your tool for locating groups. Listening carefully while sitting quietly is the toughest aspect of night work. You will hear the group coming long before you can see them. Once you hear them, call them in to Border Patrol -- get the Patrol rolling to your location as soon as possible. The groups move quickly through the night.

Night vision devices can be useful but not necessary. Some groups will be assisted with thermal night scopes provided by CHD. We will try to rotate them from location to location so everyone gets in on the fun. At times, groups will walk within just feet of where you are sitting. You have two choices. Let them proceed past you while remaining silent, or, turn on a flashlight, inquire as to who is there and watch them scatter. The latter tactic often helps to delay the group

while you are waiting for Border Patrol to arrive. *Under no circumstances are you to chase or attempt to give the group of illegal aliens any orders to sit down.* The surprise of you being there with your lights is sufficient to send them a message that they should have taken another trail. Many times the group will scatter and run back to the border -- mission accomplished!

Use ear phones for radios at night. Try to remain as quiet and stealthy as possible; sound travels great distances at night. A cough can travel a half-mile away. Remember, your mind can play tricks on you at night. The slightest sound will be cause for your imagination to run wild. Be assured, you will know a group is approaching by their distinct sound. Once you hear a group walking through the brush the sound is indelibly printed in your senses.

There will be more tactics and suggestions to come during the next few weeks. There have been many tidbits of suggestions for equipment and survival offered already. They will be available on the website.

The information provided here is not open for discussion -- this is the way CHD has managed to work through 800-plus missions. This is the only way for these patrols to work this time around. If you feel this S.O.P. is too restrictive, then you know your limits and have taken the first step to insure the MMP is successful, by knowing you should not attend.